Turner Bid Cited To Destroy Receipts

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By Morton Mintz
Washington Post Staff Writer

Chicago's police chief testified yesterday that Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner (ret.) phoned him at least twice last month to request destruction of four receipts for 397 confiscated firearms, some of which Turner sold.

"There is no possibility that my memory fails me on this score at all," Superintendent of Police James B. Coulisk Jr. testified.

He said that Turner had told him, "They are out to get me," but had not explained who "they" are.

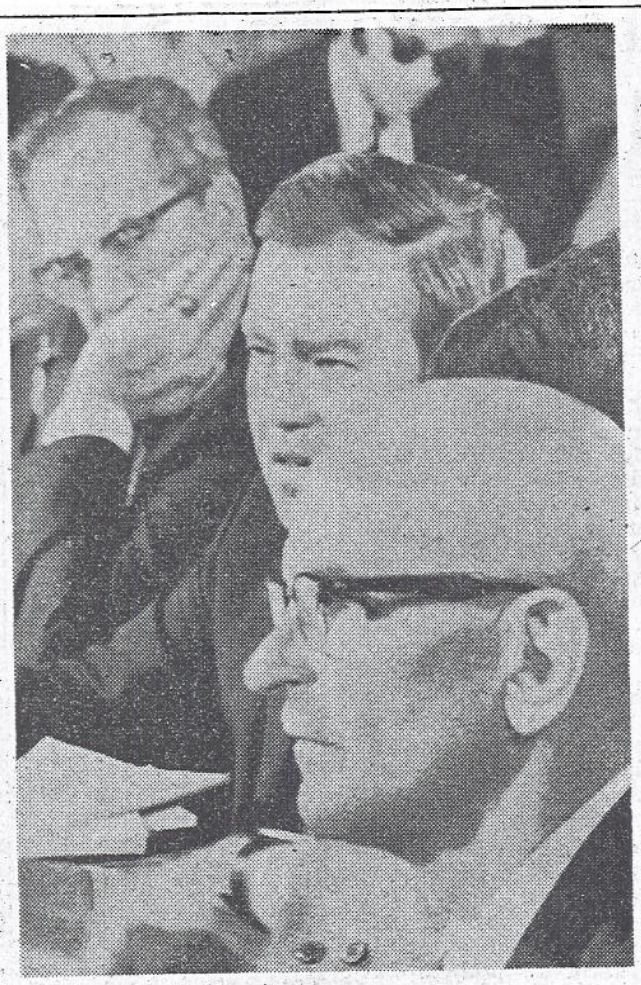
However, Conlisk told the Senate Permanent Investigations Subcommittee, Turner's phone calls came shortly after Sept. 8, when Internal Revenue Service investigators questioned him about the weapons transactions. Since then, he added, other federal agencies also have investigated the matter.

(Army Secretary Stanley R. Resor, in a speech yesterday to the Association of the U.S. Army, said that certain findings have "already been referred" to the Justice Department for action. A Defense Department spokesman said these involved Turner.)

Turner neither confirmed nor denied the testimony concerning the receipts. "I don't recall," he said, "and that's the truth."

But on several other issues of fact, Turner and Conlisk—both under oath and sitting a few feet apart at a witness table—flatly contradicted each other.

See CLUBS, A4, Col. 1



Associated Press

Maj. Gen. Carl Turner testifies as Chicago Police Superintendent James Conlisk listens, face in hand.

Associated Press

Chicago police chief James B. Conlisk, left, and retired Maj. Gen. Carl C. Turner, right, give conflicting testimony at Senate hearing. Between them are Turner's attorneys, Walter Bonner, second from left, and Edmund O'Connell.

Turner Plea on Gun Receipts Disclosed

CLUBS, From A1

Sen. Charles H. Percy (R-Ill.) said there had been either "an incredible case of perjury . . . or an incredibly convenient lapse of memory at times that it serves Gen. Turner's purpose."

Acting subcommittee chairman Abraham A. Ribicoff (D-Conn.) pressed Turner on how, as provost marshal general of the Army, he could have signed a statement typed on each receipt "that was false on the face of it."

The statement said that the guns—which were turned over to the general between May 23 and Nov. 14, 1968, the latter date two weeks after his retirement—were for Army purposes and would be destroyed by the Army after those purposes had been fulfilled.

Turner testified—and Conlisk denied—that he signed the statement because the superintendent had assured him that it was all right for him to have the guns for his personal use. He said that Conlisk also told him that the gift was necessary so that the Chicago police department could clear its records—which Conlisk also denied.

In signing the false statement, Turner conceded to Ribicoff, he now knows he had — "on the basis of friendship" with Conlisk — shown "bad judgment."

In surprise testimony, Turner said that he had received a dozen additional guns on April 11, 1968, about six weeks before the first of the four known transactions.

Ribicoff halted the hearing briefly so that a review of records could be made in Chicago by police Lt. Paul T. Duellman, who had sworn last week that he had turned over the guns on only four occasions.

Duellman said that his review showed that in fact there had been a delivery of guns on April 11. Although this confirmed Turner's testimony, the significance was caustically appraised.

All that Turner had succeeded in doing, Sen. Lee Metcalf (D-Mont.) told him, was to demonstrate that he had signed a false statement five times rather than four.

The hearings were recessed, probably until Oct. 27, when Turner is expected to be questioned about his ties with William O. Wooldridge, former Sergeant major of the Army.

Yesterday's session ended with Black Panther Pete O'Neal rising at the rear of the hearing room to charge Police Chief Clarence Kelley of Kansas City, Mo., with having given confiscated firearms to right-wing organizations.

Kelley, who is expected to testify later, denied the charge to reporters.

Ribicoff told O'Neal, who is deputy chairman of the Black Panthers in Kansas City, that the subcommittee staff would examine his evidence and that he could testify if the evidence was found to be "pertinent."